12th August 1954]

Assignment of lands to certain political sufferers.

* 1278 *Q.*—Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri C. Kandasamy): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the conditions or qualifications for being eligible for assignment of lands as a political sufferer; and

(*b*) whether the following persons who are the recipients of land gifts from the Government as political sufferers satisfy the conditions or qualifications :—

(1) M. S. Panchanatham Pillai, Marakadi, Latchamangudi Post, Mannargudi taluk of Tanjore district;

(2) Darmalingam Pillai, Headmaster, Board Boys' School, Athikadai, Tanjore district;

(3) S. Nataraja Pillai, Teacher, Board Boys' School, Athikadai, Tanjore district;

(4) Manavala Pillai, Latchamangudi Post, Mannargudi taluk, Tanjore district; and

(5) Vanchilingam Pillai, Maligai, Easankudi, Kottur Post, Tanjore district?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) Persons who suffered imprisonment by taking part in any of the following movements were eligible for grant of lands :—

(1) Non-Co-operation Movement of 1921.

(2) Nagpur Flag Satyagraha.

(3) Simon Commission Boycott, 1928–29.

(4) Salt Satyagraha, 1930.

(5) Civil Disobedience Movement, 1932.

(6) Individual Civil Disobedience Movement of 1933.

(7) Individual Civil Disobedience Movement of 1940–41.

(8) Quit India Movement of 1942.

In addition, the following persons were also eligible for the grant of land :—

(1) Persons whose names were included in the list of Satyagrahis approved by Gandhiji for taking part in the individual Civil Disobedience Movement of 1940–41, who really disobeyed but were not convicted;

(2) Persons who conducted the movement from underground in 1942 under the direction and authority of the competent Congress Committees; and

(3) Persons who were heavily lathi-charged or received shot wounds though not convicted.

" (b) Yes."

Sri M. PALANIYANDI :—" ஸார், தியாகிகளுடைய தகுதியைப்பற்றி மந்திரி அவர்கள் படித்தார்கள். ஆனால், தகுதியற்றவர்களும் தியாகிகள் என்று பொய் சொல்லி நிலம் வாங்கியிருந்தால், அதைத் திருப்பிப் பெறுவதற்கு அரசாங்கம் முன் வருமா ? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" With reference to this question, about eight or nine persons got land. I understand that two or three of them have returned the land to Sri Vinobha Bhave."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" In the matter of the qualification mentioned last, namely, conducting the movement from underground and suffering Police torture, were there not many cases of abuse of power by the Presidents of the Provincial Congress Committees who were authorised to give the certificate and to verify whose certificate there was no provision made? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Lands were given upon proper scrutiny of the certificates granted by the Presidents of the District or Taluk Congress Committees. In cases where any abuse of power was brought to our notice, we looked into the matter. As it happens in other cases, here also there is some way of escaping from the rule."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" Whereas we have no quarrel with the Government in the matter of assigning lands to the political sufferers who worked for the freedom of this country, may we know what the policy of the Government is in regard to this matter? Are they going to assign lands to those political sufferers who already possess a large extent of land as their private property, or are they going to assign lands only to those political sufferers who have no lands? I have known instances where Ministers belonging to the Cabinet of Madras and possessing big zamins have also taken five or ten acres of land by virtue of their having gone to jail. Is it the policy of the Government to dump on the rich political sufferers some more land whereas there are hundreds of poor, landless people hungry after land? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" At present, the doors are closed in the matter of assignment of lands to political sufferers. As for some rich people getting lands, some of them have returned their lands."

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is it a fact that many Harijans who have been long in possession of lands have been sacrificed to make way for the sacrifices of these political sufferers? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" In cases where we could legally interfere, we have seen that proper compensation is paid to the sivoijamadars."